

Section 1

Introduction

Background

Under the California Tire Recycling Act of 1989 and subsequent amendments, the Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) has two main strategies: 1) provide a strong and fair regulatory framework to protect public health and safety and the environment while not stifling waste tire flow and processing; and 2) support expansion and diversification of recycling markets for waste tires. CalRecycle has long had a goal of diverting at least 90 percent of waste tires generated in California from landfills. CalRecycle is now also focused on implementing programs to achieve a statewide 75 percent recycling (as opposed to diversion) goal for all discarded materials, as required under AB 341 (Chesbro, Chapter 476, Statutes of 2011). Consequently, the Department is focusing mainly on recycling tires through reuse, civil engineering, and crumb rubber, as opposed to diversion through export, alternative daily cover (ADC), or tire-derived fuel (TDF). CalRecycle's Five-Year Plan for the Waste Tire Recycling Management Program, which is revised every two years, guides efforts to reach and maintain a 90 percent diversion goal and the 75 percent recycling goal. The latest version of the [five-year plan](#) was approved on May 1, 2015.

This report summarizes waste tire recycling and market trends in 2015, with additional information on trends in early 2016. The report was prepared under CalRecycle contract by Louis Berger Group, with research, analysis, and writing led by Boisson Consulting in collaboration with DK Enterprises.

Following this introduction, Section 2 provides a snapshot of key findings on diversion activities and markets for California waste tires. Section 3 describes detailed market trends by category. Section 4 analyzes the outlook for increased diversion and implications for CalRecycle's market development activities. Finally, Appendix A provides a glossary of key terms, and Appendix B summarizes the report methodology and limitations.

Interpreting and Using Report Findings

As detailed in Appendix B, findings in this report are based on detailed analysis of data and information from numerous sources, including: industry surveys and interviews; CalRecycle staff; CalRecycle's Waste Tire Manifest System (WTMS); and other sources. Following are a few key points to consider when interpreting and using the report's findings: